



Carl Mydans

Carl Mydans was born in Boston on May 20, 1907 to a family of second-generation Russian immigrants. Mydans became interested in photography while an undergraduate student at Boston University School of Journalism. His first reporting jobs were for *The Boston Globe* and the *Boston Herald*. After graduating from Boston University in 1930, he went to New York as a writer for the *American Banker*. He joined Roy Stryker's Historical Section in 1935 and worked there for about a year. He travelled throughout New England and the South. He gained recognition for his photographs of Arkansas farmers and their families. In 1936, he joined *Life* as one of its earliest staff photographers. At the onset of World War II, *Life* sent him to photograph the Soviet invasion of Finland in 1939. He then photographed images of war throughout Europe and Asia during World War II. In 1941, he and his wife Shelley, also a journalist, were captured by the Japanese forces in the Philippines. They were held for almost a year in Manila, then for another year in Shanghai before they were released. He was sent back to Europe to cover campaigns in Italy and France. By 1944, he was back in the Philippines to cover MacArthur's landing and retaking of the Philippines. Some of his most famous photographs include the Japanese surrender aboard the U.S.S. Missouri in 1945, angry French citizens shaving the heads of women accused of sleeping with Germans during the occupation and a 1950 portrait of Douglas MacArthur smoking a pipe. He later photographed the Korean War and had a long and distinguished career in photojournalism working for *Life* for two decades and publishing numerous books. He died in 2004 in Larchmont, New York.

Carl Mydans Bibliography

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Carl Mydans Websites

Gallery M-Carl Mydans

<http://www.gallerym.com/artist.cfm?ID=30>

Hard Times: Arkansas Depression Era Photos

http://www.oldstatehouse.com/exhibits/virtual/hard_times/carl_mydans/

Duke University Libraries

<http://library.duke.edu/exhibits/carlmydans/index.html>

VP Photo Gallery

http://www.vpphotogallery.com/photog_mydans.htm